cadre presently posted on deputation to N.C.C.F.; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An inquiry had been made into the complaint by the Department of Civil Supplies. None of the allegations in the complaint was substantiated. On 24.5.88 the MP had withdrawn the allegation made against the officer and requested to consider the matter as closed. The case since been closed.

National Flood Control Programme

2181. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Flood Control Programme was undertaken to check the devastation caused by floods occuring every year in the country;

(b) if so, when was the said programme undertaken and what long term measures have been taken to control flood under this programme since its inception upto the year 1987-88;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been persistent increase in the loss occuring due to floods since 1956 upto the current year; and

(d) if so, the extent of the loss suffered in this regard during 1956 and the estimated loss for the year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Consequent on the floods in the year 1954, two policy statements were made by the Central Government on the flood situation and the programme for remedial action. While a national programme was not undertaken as such, the State Governments were asked to pursue the short-term and long-term measures for mangement of floods in their area. In 1973, the Central Government also established the Ganga Flood Control Commission for preparing master plans for flood management in the co-basin States. Later, in 1981 the Central Government also set up the Brahmaputra Board for preparing master plans in the Brahmaputra and the Barak Valleys. The problem was studied in detail by the Rashtriya Barh Ayog from 1976 onwards and their recommendations made in 1980 have provided the basis for flood control programmes in the flood-affected States. The long-term measures undertaken so far include construction of storage reservoirs on tributaries of certain rivers and additional embankments where necessary. Central Government have also expanded the flood forecasting and warning service on major rivers to assist the States in taking advance preparatory action.

(c) and (d) The losses due to floods in any year depends upon the magnitude and duration of the rainfall during the flood season. Generally, flood damage has been rising over the years, mainly because of increasing economic activity in the flood plains, increase of population and human habitation, cost escalations and inadequate maintenance of flood mangement works at places. According to the figures reported by the State Governments, the losses due to flood in the year 1956 was Rs. 53.3 crores. The loss reported for 1988 comes to Rs. 3653 crores.